FROM

Name.....

Address.....

NEW YORK CIVIC LEAGUE

61 State Street,

Office of
"The Reform Bulletin."
P. O. Box 627.

ALBANY, N. Y.

DANGER AHEAD! ACT QUICKLY!

Dear Friend:

Will you please put the enclosed post cards at once in the hands of prominent Christian men in your town who are opposed to the bad bills referred to and also in favor of the good bills mentioned, and ask them to answer the questions, sign the post cards, and send them quickly to your Senator here at Albany. "The King's business demands haste."

O. R. MILLER.
State Supt. N. Y. Civic League.

Albany, N. Y.

HERE WRITE YOUR LEGISLATOR, EMPHASIZING YOUR SUPPORT OF OR OPPOSITION TO ANY BILL PENDING.

Post Card

PLACE ONE CENT STAMP HERE.

Hon._____

State Legislature,

Capitol P. O. **ALBANY, N. Y.**

Hon..... Date.....

Dear Sir.—I desire to express my fraction of public sentiment on five important measures now pending before the Legislature, as follows:

1. Shall the Velte-Hammer bill be pas sed to make possible the opening of saloons in New York on Sunday from 1 to 11 p. m.?

2. Shall the Walker-Boylan bill be passed to allow saloons to be located closer than 200 feet to a schocl building?

3. Shall we have a Day of Rest bill passed, requiring all employers to give their employees one day in every seven to rest?

4. Shall we have a genuine Direct Primary law passed, making it easy for the people and hard for the bosses to nominate candidates for office?

5. Shall the County No-license bill be passed, giving all counties, cities, towns. or wards of cities, power to vote out the saloons?

Name..... Address.....

(Write "Yes" or "No" after each question, and mail direct to your Legislator.)

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The Reform Bulletin

Entered as second-class matter January 10, 1910, at post office at Albany, N. Y.

A Weekly Report Concerning Moral Reforms in the State of New York.

Published at 61 State Street, Albany, N. Y., by Rev. O. R. Miller, State Superintendent of the New York Civic League. 25 cents per year.

VOL. 4. ALBANY, N. Y., April 11, 1913. No. 15.

GREATEST SUNDAY BATTLE YET TO COME!

Wagner Committee Bills Introduced to Open New York Saloons on Sunday. Hearing Next Wednesday on Velte-Hammer Bills.

The last great crisis on the Sunday question has been reached in the present Legislature. Senator Velte and Assemblyman Hammer have introduced a bill to carry out the recommendations of the Wagner Investigating Committee with reference to the Sunday opening of saloons. The Democratic leaders are supposed to be for this bill, at least Senator Wagner, the Democratic leader of the Senate and Speaker Smith of the Assembly told the editor of The Bulletin yesterday that they were strongly in favor of this bill and expected it would pass.

The Democratic party in the Legislature is expected to make this an administration measure and force it through the Legislature at the point of the bayonet, figuratively speaking. Every means in Tammany's power will be used to force men to vote for this bill. The liquor men are making their last great effort to secure their long coveted prize of selling liquor without fear or hindrance on the Lord's Day, at least in Greater New York.

The power of Tammany is great, it is tremendous, but the power of the people is still greater. Will the people use their power, the power of protest, against the Velte-Hammer bill? The Christian people of this state are like a sleeping giant being attacked by pigmies. If the giant continues to sleep, even the pigmies can bind him hand and foot and cast him into prison. But if this mighty giant can be awakened quickly and aroused to fight in dead earnest, every enemy will take hasty flight before his aroused indignation. But it is a very difficult problem to arouse this giant from his slumber of ease and indifference.

The Bulletin has often said in the past that the people are like air in that they are never heard until they thunder; then everybody, including the Legislators, hear. It is now time for the Christian people of New York State to speak in thunder tones against the Velte-Hammer Sunday opening bill. This giant, the people, was thoroughly aroused a few weeks ago against the Dennen Sunday baseball bill and poured in so overwhelmingly their protests against that bill from all over the state to their Legislators at Albany, that the Democrats became thoroughly alarmed and finally dropped the matter.

But here is a bill ten times as bad as the Dennen Sunday Baseball bill, hence, there ought to be ten times as many protests go to Albany against this bill as against the Sunday baseball bill. Here is a bill to make possible the legalizing of a business on *Sunday* which really should not be legalized on *any* day of the week. Think of the wickedest, the most villanous business in the world, rum selling, being legalized on the Christians' holy Sabbath! We cannot put our indignation in strong enough language to express our abhorrence of such a proposition. Any political party that endorses such a bill ought to be relegated to everlasting political oblivion.

Within the last two days the editor of The Bulletin, state superintendent

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of the New York Civic League, called on Lieutenant Governor Glynn, Democratic Leader Wagner of the Senate, Speaker Smith of the Assembly, and Democratic Leader Levy of the Assembly and to each expressed an emphatic protest against the Velte-Hammer bill. To each of these gentlemen he said: "If you Democrats pass any bill directly to legalize Sunday opening of saloons in this state, or do the same thing indirectly by giving some other body, such as the board of Aldermen of New York City, power to do the same thing, I want to tell you that there will not be fifty Democrats in the next Assembly, and the New York Civic League will help to do it."

That is about what happened in 1911 when the Democrats tried so hard to pass the Gittins Racetrack gambling bills, but were finally defeated largely through the efforts of the New York Civic League. We should think that the Democrats would learn something by experience but apparently they are not learning by experience. So many of them come from New York City and they seem to think that they have a right to have a different standard of morals and even a different Ten Commandments there from the rest of the state. But we are sure that the great mass of the Christian sentiment of this state is overwhelmingly against any Sunday opening of saloons and we thoroughly believe that if any such bill is passed the Democrats who now have 103 members of the Assembly will next year have not over fifty, and *the New York Civic League will strongly oppose the re-election of every man who votes for such a bill.*

The Last Great Battle.—If we can defeat this last determined and desperate effort of the liquor men for Sunday saloons we believe we will practically settle this question for years to come. We think it will be a long time before there will be another Legislature so friendly to bad bills. We urge, therefore, every person who reads these lines if they are opposed to Sunday saloons that they write a letter *immediately,* first to their Senator, protesting strongly against the Velte-Hammer Sunday opening bill; then write to your Assemblyman likewise. But if you cannot write to both, write to your Senator.

As the Senate is elected for two years, it is very probable that the Democratic leaders will think it wisest to fight the battle out in the Senate first, for if they cannot pass it in the Senate there would be no use to pass it in the Assembly beforehand and thus put the Democrats on record in favor of the bill, many of whom could not possibly be re-elected this fall who should vote for such a bill. When the Senate election is a year and a half ahead, they always hope that the people will forget about their bad vote before election day comes around, hence, they are more willing to vote for a bad bill in their first year than in their second year. But The Reform Bulletin and the New York Civic League will see to it before election that not many Christian people of this State are ignorant as to how their Senators and Assemblymen voted on so important a moral question as this. If you do not know who your Senator or Assemblyman is, ask or phone to your local newspaper or some local politician or pastor. Every pastor surely ought to know who his Senator or Assemblyman is.

We especially urge the Christian people of Greater New York to increased activity along this line. Senator Wagner told the editor of The Bulletin yesterday that of the various representatives of religious denominations, a few of whom were ministers, that appeared before his investigating committee in New York City, all favored the opening of saloons on Sunday, and he seemed to think that the great mass of the Christian people of New York City actually favor Sunday opening of saloons! Let us hope that at least one hundred thousand Christian people in Greater New York within the next ten days will write such swift and emphatic letters of protest to their legislators against the Velte-Hammer bill that they will never again have any suspicion that a majority of the Christian people of that city favor the opening of saloons on Sunday. So many people have already written their Senators and Assemblymen against the Duhamel and Walker bills which would allow the opening of saloons on Sunday all over the State that these bills have practically been dropped by the Democratic leaders and they are now determined to pass the Velte-Hammer bill which applies only to New York City, if they possibly can.

Help Needed Quickly for this Great Battle.—The New York Civic League is in great need of *immediate* funds with which to continue its aggressive Statewide campaign against all efforts to pass any bill to legalize the opening of saloons on Sunday, especially to defeat the latest bill endorsed by the Democratic leaders, the Velte-Hammer bill. This League ought to have at least $2,000 *immediately* for this special fight, to be used in sending out men and letters, especially into doubtful legislative districts, to inform the people as to the dangerous situation in the Legislature and arouse them to send in a mighty protest against all bills to open saloons on Sunday. The New York Civic League has in its Albany office the names of more than 100,000 Christian laymen from all parts of New York State. A two cent sealed letter should go to all of these men telling them of the crisis here at Albany and asking them to send a swift protest to their Senator and Assemblyman urging them to vote against all Sunday opening bills. Men should also be sent out to many doubtful districts personally to inform and arouse the people as to the danger. Who will help the League do this much needed work? Send help for this work to the New York Civic League, 61 State Street, Albany, N. Y.

WHY WE OPPOSE THE VELTE-HAMMER SUNDAY OPENING BILL.

The bill introduced by Senator Velte and Assemblyman Hammer provides that the Board of Aldermen or other legislative body of any city of the first-class having over one million inhabitants may by an ordinance which is approved by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment prescribe the hours during which and conditions under which, liquor may be sold on Sunday between 1 p. m. and 11 p. m. This bill of course applies only to New York City, as it is the only city in this State which has more than a million inhabitants. If such a bill is vetoed by the Mayor, it can be passed over his veto by the usual two-thirds vote in the Board of Estimate as well as in the Board of Aldermen.

First, we oppose this bill because it is an attempt to do in an indirect manner what the liquor men have found impossible to do in a direct manner. The liquor men hoped that a direct bill would be passed legalizing saloons on Sunday all over the State, but such a thunder of protests has poured into the legislators at Albany from all over the State during the last three weeks, that it was finally seen that such a bill could not be passed. Hence, in their desperation, the New York liquor men are fighting their last and most determined battle to get their much coveted prize in this indirect manner. But, the Christian people of this State must oppose all bills which make possible the legalizing of Sunday saloons, either directly or indirectly. They tell us that this is the entering wedge for local option on the liquor question in general, but we do not believe in any local option on morals and we do not think any of the Ten Commandments should be submitted to a vote of the people or to a vote of the Board of Aldermen of New York City or any other city.

Second, we oppose this bill because it would simply be the entering wedge for the opening of saloons on Sunday all over the State. If New York City is given the privilege of legalizing the opening of saloons on Sunday, next year the liquor men of Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and other cities will come to the Legislature demanding that they are part of New York State and are entitled to just as much Sunday privilege as the liquor men of Greater New York, and logically the argument on their side would be hard to answer. There are many people who think that New York City should have whatever she wants whether it is right or wrong, simply because that city is so large and has such a cosmopolitan population. But the same cosmopolitan population can be found in every city of the State, though on a smaller scale. Every city has its Germans, its Italians and other foreigners who are as much entitled to their Sunday drinks as the same class in New York City. If it is right in one place, it is right in every place and if it is morally wrong in one place, it is morally wrong in every place.

Every up-State legislator who votes for this bill, though it applies only to New York City, will be held as favoring the general principle of the opening of saloons all over the State on Sunday, because this cannot be other than the entering wedge for the extension of the same privilege to the liquor men all over the State later on.

Third, we oppose this bill because the liquor traffic is not a local question but a State question. It has always been recognized as a State affair. The State has always licensed it, the State has always collected the revenue from it, the State has always passed uniform laws with reference to it. Why, therefore, should the State now allow the different cities to pass their own laws for regulating this traffic? Why should New York City be given power to pass one set of laws to regulate the liquor traffic either on Sunday or week days and the adjoining city of Mount Vernon and Yonkers also be given power to pass another set of laws with reference to it? It would be as sensible to authorize every city to have a different banking law or a different school law as to have a different liquor law.

The fact is, the liquor traffic affects not simply the city where it is sold but the suburbs for fifty miles or more around. The legalizing of open Sunday saloons would drive out many good people into the country over Sunday to get away from the results of it and it would draw in many bad people for fifty or one hundred miles around to drink and carouse in the city all through the day.

"Home rule" is a popular cry just now, but there are some things to which home rule should never apply, and this is one of them. We must take into consideration not simply the people in the city but the people in the surrounding country. The good of the whole State must be considered, not simply the desire of one city.

All the objections urged in The Bulletin of March 28th against a *direct* bill to legalize open saloons on Sunday, apply with equal force to this special bill for New York.

Circulate Petitions next Sunday against the Velte-Hammer Bill.—We most earnestly urge that every church in this State next Sunday circulate a petition addressed to their Senator urging him to vote against the Velte-Hammer bill, and mail it to Albany Monday. Make the petition brief. The following form might be used: "Hon. ....., Albany, N. Y. We, your constituents, protest most emphatically against the passage of the Velte-Hammer bill to make possible the legalizing of open saloons on Sunday in New York City and earnestly urge that you vote against that bill." We urge every pastor to write a personal protest, and get just as many of his leading men as possible to do likewise. **You may have written your Senator before this year, but do it again in this emergency.**

GREATER NEW YORK MOTION PICTURE CRISIS!

Who Will be to Blame if Censorship of Motion Pictures Fails in New York City? Not Only Mayor Gaynor but Republican Leaders Who Seem to be Co-operating with Him.

By CANON WM. SHEAFE CHASE, D. D., President N. Y. Civic League.

Alderman Folks has persistently refused to incorporate a censorship provision of Motion Pictures in his ordinance, notwithstanding the fact that the Roman Catholic, Protestant and Jewish religious forces of the city want it to protect the children of our city, because he says the Mayor vetoed it once, and because he says the censorship matter should be taken separately. He disregards also the wishes of the Motion Picture Exhibitors who want censorship.

He fails to realize that when the city is giving something which resembles a valuable franchise to the manufacturers of films it is the proper and only time to expect to secure a vote for censorship.

Alderman Folks perhaps unconsciously misrepresents his ordinance, when he says that it merely deals with the structure of Motion Picture Theaters to make them safe and sanitary. If it were that and only that there would be no need of demanding any concession from the Motion Picture Trust at the same time such as an effective moral supervision of the films.

The truth is that the principal concessions to the Motion Picture Trust in his ordinance have been kept in the back ground, as well as the fact that his ordinance does not render existing shows safer from fire as the Morrison ordinance. The Folks ordinance applies fire protection only to motion picture theaters which are to be built in the future.

The Folks Ordinance Gives the Following Advantages To the Motion Picture Trust:

1. It legalizes the giving of a common show license, which is now granted by the mayor, contrary to law. According to law they should have a theater license granted by the Police Department.
2. It gives the Motion Picture shows a license for $100 a year, which now according to law would cost $500.
3. By allowing a common show license to be granted for a motion picture theater seating 600, and to be built so as not to conform to section 109 of the Building Code, and may be built much less expensively than if they were built under the existing law, the Folks ordinance will make it possible for the Motion Picture Trust or any large moneyed interest to drive out of business the existing Motion Picture theaters. This is the reason why the Motion Picture Exhibitors' Association has presented to Alderman Folks a petition asking him to limit the size of the motion picture theaters to 300 as at present.
4. It increases the use of films and the rentals coming to the trust by providing that the existing motion picture show, unless it gives up having dramatic sketches, must pay $500 a year for its license.

If any one makes the accusation that the Tammany men are voting to protect the theatrical interests which are attacked by the Folks ordinance, the same ground exists for holding that the Republican Aldermen who vote for the Folks ordinance are supporting a measure which gives an unfair advantage to the Motion Picture Theaters against their business rivals, which are the vaudeville theaters.

It is clear that the moral welfare of the children and of the public and absolute justice to all business interests should govern the aldermen at this great moral crisis. No favoritism to any business and allegiance to any party organization should hold an alderman back from protecting the children and providing an effective moral regulation of pictures such as the Motion Picture Exhibitors desire.

The pressure of the Republican organization force was brought to bear upon this moral issue on Tuesday, March 25, so that many Republican aldermen voted contrary to their convictions and contrary to the wishes of their constituents.

Alderman Folks has reintroduced his ordinance without censorship and proposes to bring still more pressure to bear upon Aldermen Downing and Gaynor to compel them to vote at the meeting of the Board of Aldermen Tuesday, April 15th, for his ordinance which failed to pass because it lacked two votes of the necessary number.

The Morrison ordinance now before the Law and Legislation Committee of the Board of Aldermen practically legalizes the present National Board of Censorship. It makes the censoring board to be composed of a wider difference of people. It really will accomplish, what the so-called National Board of Censorship merely pretends to do.

It is the duty of the Republican party to oppose the ideas of Mayor Gaynor in this matter which are opposed to the moral welfare of the children and the wishes of ninety-five per cent of the people.

The veto of the Mayor should hold no Aldermen, not even the Democratic members from voting again for some form of censorship. The Mayor recently vetoed the Pendry Fire Drill School Ordinance. The Board of Aldermen again passed the Pendry ordinance unanimously and the Mayor let it become a law without his signature. If any political organization attempts to force an Alderman to vote on a moral issue contrary to his convictions and those of his constituents, he ought to be man enough to rebel.

Reader, will you help the children in this great moral crisis? Call upon, telephone or write to Samuel Koenig, Chairman Republican Committee of New York County at 27 Cedar Street, New York City, and Jacob Livingstone, 44 Court Street, Brooklyn, Chairman of the Republican Kings County Committee. **Ask their help in this fight.**

OBJECT OF THE REFORM BULLETIN.

During the New York Legislature THE BULLETIN will

(1) Describe briefly every bill introduced bearing on moral questions.

(2) State to what Committee each bill is referred.

(3) Announce the date of hearings on these bills.

(4) Publish brief reports of these hearings.

(5) Publish the record of how each member of the Legislature votes on all these bills, etc.

When the Legislature is *not* in session, THE BULLETIN will wage a campaign of education in behalf of moral measures that should be passed by the next Legislature.

Price of The Reform Bulletin.—Single subscription, 25c per year; in clubs of five or more, each mailed to a different person, 20c each per year. Four pages; size, 6x9 inches.

PHONE: MAIN 53

The New York Civic League

[Incorporated]

REV. O. R. MILLER, A. M., State Superintendent and Editor of "THE REFORM BULLETIN."

OFFICE SECRETARY, MISS HATTIE M. HENDRICK, B.L.

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OUR OBJECT

The object of the New York Civic League, as stated in its charter, is "to educate and elevate public sentiment along all lines of moral, social and political progress and efficiency,—but especially with reference to temperance, gambling, Sunday observance, social purity, divorce, and the preservation of the democratic principles of our government, and to secure the passage and enforcement of laws along all such lines in the United States, but especially in the State of New York."

STATE HEADQUARTERS: 61 STATE ST., ALBANY, N.Y.

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April 18th, 1913.

Mrs. J. Foster,

New York,

Dear Mrs. Foster:

The New York Civic League is leading the great state-wide battle against the bill now pending before the Legislature to open saloons on Sunday. We have held some great mass meetings against such bills and should hold more such meetings. We are sending out thousands of letters every week into doubtful legislative districts asking men to send their protests against this measure to their legislators and giving them their legislators' names. We should also like to send out several men into certain districts to personally arouse the people to protest. We greatly need your financial help for this work.

Will you not send us quickly a contribution to help defeat this Velte-Hammer bill which would allow the Board of Aldermen of New York City to open saloons there after 1 P. M. on Sunday? We consider this a most dangerous bill, FIRST, because it would be the entering wedge for the opening of saloons on Sunday all over the state; SECOND, we do not think any of the Ten Commandments should be submitted to a vote of the Board of Aldermen of New York City, or of any city. Great pressure is being brought to bear upon certain Senators to get them to vote for this bad bill, and your Senator is one of them. ' Will you PLEASE SEND AT ONCE A LETTER PROTESTING AGAINST THE VELTE-HAMMER BILL TO YOUR SENATOR Hon. Geo. A. Blauvelt, Albany, N.Y.

Sincerely yours,

O. R. Miller

State Supt. N. Y. Civic League.

OYL6155 BOX 111